Amendments to the Claims

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) [[A]] An isolated or synthetic livin-derived peptide selected from one of p30-Livin α and p28-Livin β.

28. (Currently amended) [[A]] An isolated or synthetic livin-derived peptide selected from one of p30-Livin α and p28-Livin β, wherein said p30-Livin α peptide comprises the sequence ~~substantially~~ as defined in SEQ ID NO:1~~, or functional analogues, derivatives or fragments thereof~~ having pro-apoptotic activity, and wherein said p28-Livin β peptide comprises the sequence ~~substantially~~ as defined in SEQ ID NO:2~~, or functional analogues, derivatives or fragments thereof~~ having pro-apoptotic activity.

29. (Currently amended) [[A]] An isolated or synthetic peptide as defined in claim 28, wherein said p30-Livin α is denoted by the amino acid sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO:1 and said p28-Livin β is denoted by the amino acid sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO:2.

30. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient at least one peptide as defined in claim 28.

31. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 30, for inducing and/or enhancing apoptosis.

32. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 31, wherein said apoptosis is induced by a treatment or agent selected from the group consisting of etoposide, anti-CD95/Fas, TNFα and staurosporine.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim [[33]] 31, for inducing ~~programmed cell death of~~ apoptosis in malignant cells.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing and/or enhancing apoptosis or programmed cell death in cells, comprising administering an effective dosage of a peptide of claim 28, or a composition comprising thereof, to said cells.

36. (Withdrawn) The method as defined in claim 35, wherein said cells are malignant cells.

37. (Withdrawn) A method of enhancing the sensitivity of cells to death-inducing treatments or agents, comprising the steps of:

(a) Introducing a Livin-derived peptide as defined in claim 28, or a composition comprising thereof, into a cell; and

(b) Treating said cell with death-inducing agents or treatments.

38. (Withdrawn) The method as defined in claim 37, wherein said cells are malignant cells.

39. (Withdrawn) The method as defined in claim 37, wherein said death-inducing treatments or agents are selected from the group consisting of etoposide, anti-CD95/Fas, TNFα and staurosporine.

40. (Withdrawn) A method of preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the induction of apoptosis, comprising the step of admixing one of the peptides as defined in claim 28[[,]] with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, carrier or diluent, and optionally with at least one additional active agent.

41. (Withdrawn) A method of treating cancer, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a peptide as defined in claim 28, or a composition comprising thereof, to a subject in need of said treatment.

42. (Previously presented) A plasmid comprising DNA encoding a p30-Livin α peptide as defined by SEQ ID NO:1 or a p28-Livin β peptide as defined by SEQ ID NO:2.

43. (Previously presented) A viral vector comprising DNA encoding a p30-Livin α peptide as defined by SEQ ID NO:1 or a p28-Livin β peptide as defined by SEQ ID NO:2.